

MICHELLE PLOTNIK • AIA
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN CONSULTING

September 19, 2005

Robert H. Schneider, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Ranch Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Support for Bear Valley Water District NPDES Permit

Chair Schneider and Board Members:

I wish to express my support for the above referenced discharge permit.

I am a local architect with a long history of projects in the Bear Valley area. I am currently working with several clients on projects within the district boundaries and am often approached by potential clients who are considering projects in the area. Unfortunately, I have to tell all but the single family clients that the District is not currently in a position to be able to allocate any significant number of connections. I have been working on the Pine Tree Village condominium project for at least 5 years and we have only been able to obtain a commitment of connections for the initial 21 units and have no idea when the District will be able to commit connections for the final 75 units. Clearly the current situation is adversely impacting the economic climate of the area and preventing the build out of the original Master Plan. With the recent sale of the adjacent Bear Valley Ski Company the pressure to accommodate development is only going to increase.

It is my understanding that the originally designed and installed sewer system was intended to accommodate the build out of the entire Master Planned area to the north of State Route 4. Several years ago the District experienced an unplanned discharge into Bloods Creek which resulted in a Cease and Desist order from the Board. This discharge was the result of snowmelt which caused an overflow of the Districts storage reservoir. Since that time the District has made every effort to obtain additional spray field area, to reduce infiltration into the existing lines and reservoir, to encourage replacement of older higher flow plumbing fixtures and to generally manage the system in such a way as to reduce the necessity for discharges into Bloods Creek. At this point the District is out of cost effective options to increase the system capacity to that which was originally intended. While I'm sure that options such as tertiary treatment may eventually become necessary it would seem that the NPDES permit would be a reasonable interim measure. The discharges are likely to only occur during extremely wet periods and would therefore be primarily snow melt. I seem to recall that previous discharges were actually "cleaner" than the water in Bloods Creek and that the proposed discharges would be diluted at least 20:1 with the snowmelt.

While I certainly support clean water policies and would never wish to support any action which would lead to a deterioration of the water quality of our creeks and rivers, I have followed the progression of this issue and am comfortable that a discharge permit is entirely justified in this case.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

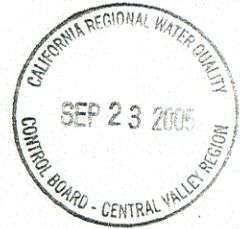


Michelle Plotnik, AIA

PO Box 2145
Murphys, CA 95247

209/728-8471
FAX 728-8479

cc: BVWD; Terry Woodrow, Alpine County Supervisor; Steve Sloan, PTV



Bob
IRP
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KDL/DEC
OK